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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

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August 2012

President's Message-The Feedline

By Marcus Maclean, KI6WDX

How is your shack surviving the summer thus far? Well for my shack, things about it and with it are progressing along at a snail's pace although I do expect my installation work to ramp up more in the next few coming months as more of what my shack and myself need to be an effective operator is put into play. In the next few days, be sure to check your email inboxes as I, as the president of this radio club, will be issuing a formal executive order. I'm sure that in issuing it will ruffle some feathers and cause some groaning amongst the club members, but the issuance of it will in the long term wholly benefit this radio club and its membership.

And in early September, another executive order will be forthcoming and it too has the future of this club and its membership in mind. At the August club meeting, there will be a short yet effective presentation made regarding coax cable. The presentation will be useful and informative for those operators wishing to expand their endeavor to putting together their shack so that when they're on the air during nasty winter weather storm and not have to worry about their radio(s) not being able to transmit much less receive. So please come to the August club meeting and bring a notepad if you need to jot down some notes!

In the time I've been a member of this club and with my presidency to the club along with holding an informal meeting with the club officers and B.O.D.'s once every 90 days, there are and will be changes coming in the future. Of the survey I took on earlier this year, there are 16 club members having an HF rig, a mobile rig and an HT radio. There are 5 members having both a mobile rig and an HT radio. There are two members having only a mobile radio and there is just one member having both a HF rig and an HT radio. There will be more forthcoming survey information soon as yours truly has to work and analyzing the survey results takes time!

Well, that's about all for the moment. Until next month, be safe, be well and G.O.T.A.! 73!

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Club Meeting Minutes for July 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by club president Marcus Maclean KI6WDX.

There were no reports from the June Meeting because we had a picnic instead of a traditional meeting. Everyone liked the picnic that attended it.

Old Business—Field Day was good. As a club we probably had the best turnout and involvement in many years. We spent time talking about Larry Hogue SK, W6OMF and how he helped our Field Day station with location, set up, operations, and the hospitality of Larry and Sue Hogue K6SUE.

The newsletter was delivered to several addresses in a damaged condition. The publisher was informed of this problem immediately. More discussion took place as to why we mail it at all.

New Business—A field trip to Mt. Vaca to see the repeater installation was discussed but nothing was formalized since it's still to hot outside.

Presentation—Jerry KD6WKY brought his old Lectrokit SP-1 QRP rig for the entertainment of the group. Discussion around how it is used, QRP operations and the crystals needed generated some interest in this particular part of our hobby.

The meeting as adjourned at 8:20pm.

Around the Shack

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

This past weekend I attended a Tri-Club meeting of the Northern California Contest Club, Mother Lode DX Contest Club, and the Redwood Empire DX Club over at the Rockville Grill. The meeting was something these three clubs do annually in our area to allow guys like me to go to a meeting without having to drive 90 minutes each way on a week night to attend a meeting. I am a member of the NCCC.

The guest speaker was a guy named David Ewing N6PSE who was a member of the recent 7O6T DXpedition to Yemen this past May. Dave had a very good presentation which was pretty amazing when you consider Yemen was a top five entity on the DX most wanted list.

Yemen had not issued an amateur radio license in over 20 years until the multi-national team of Americans and Russians slipped the right people in the Yemeni government $25,000 in cash. The license was issued along with a restriction against working any Israeli stations. Ask me when you see me; I have more details about this interesting part of the story.

From our club we also had Skip AF6HC, Chuck KE6ETI, and Marcus KI6WDX at the lunch meeting. These guys saw the same program and have lots to say about it. Ask them when you see them.

With the help of Bruce N6THN I bench tested my QRP rig and all the new crystals I got recently. The rig puts out 1.3 watts which is a bit more than I thought it produced. We also discovered the crystal labeled 7.042 MHz was actually a 7.040 MHz crystal on the frequency counter. I contacted the seller and an exchange is in progress.

Saturday morning I got a fat envelope full of QSL cards from the 6th Area Incoming QSL Bureau. I had a smattering of JA's but I had lots of QSL cards from interesting places and events. Some of you may remember that I worked a station in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil via a 10 meter repeater in Up State New York back in November 2010. I got his QSL card for the 29.620 MHz FM repeater QSO in this mailing. It doesn't count for anything in the DX world, but its lots of fun to talk about!

I worked the 2O12L (Two Oscar One Two London) Special Event Station last week. This bunch of chaps is running s Special Event Sta during the Olympics over across the pond.

I also worked that CY9M DXpedition on St. Paul Island just a few miles north of Nova Scotia on 17m and 40m CW. Go check out their website.

Today I received a perfectly addressed envelope from Y.Z Miyazawa JH1AJT, you know the envelopes with the red white and blue edge. The Japanese people always take extra care in filling out QSL cards and addressing envelopes. Inside was a QSL card from the A5A DXpedition in Bhutan that unfolded into a two page card full of information and pictures of the group. This is definitely a rare country confirmation on 17 meters CW and 15 meters phone. Google the A5A DXpedition to see all the photos.

I completed my Volunteer Examiner Course a few weeks ago and faxed it in. I'm still waiting for results but I'm sure I did fine. Now I can try and help others get their first license or advance their license level just like they did for me.

See you at the club meeting! 73!

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2011 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Marcus Maclean KI6WDX
Vice President: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Tom Christman KE6MDM

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Marcus Maclean KI6WDX
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Items for Sale!

1. Yaesu FT-8900r with new Mic , new Ysk-8900 separation kit, New mounting hardware, and programming software with cable. Radio is 7 months old and never used mobile. Asking $400.00.
2. CR8900A quad band antenna. never been used and still in its plastic sleeve. Asking $70.00.

Call John W6FAQ 707-678-3382

Free Items!

It's all free for the taking:
55 foot plus self standing tower
3 element HF beam
Rotor motor
Call Bob, K6HEW at 448-5665

Radio for Sale!

1. Kenwood TS-570D with the YK-88C1 500 KHz CW filter.

The radio has many features:

- 160-10 meters
- Electronic Keyer
- Noise Reduction
- 100 Memories
- 5~100 Watts Output
- 16 Bit D.S.P. (this is really great!)
- CW Auto Tune
- Keypad
- Full and Semi Break-in
- 10 Hz Tuning
- RS-232 Computer Interface Cable

This is a great radio. We used it on Field Day. Includes original owners manual and double boxes. Asking price is $700.00 cash. Contact Jerry Olive at 707-422-6777 days or kd6wky@arrl.net.

FCC Denies Petition Seeking to Designate Nationwide Emergency Calling Frequency

Saying that it believes that the Amateur Service "allows flexibility to provide emergency communications in a way that takes into account channel availability and other local conditions," the FCC **denied a *Petition for Rulemaking* to create a nationwide emergency calling frequency**. The ***Petition*** -- filed by Bryan Boyle, WB0YLE, of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, and Jim Dixon, WB6NIL, of Alhambra, California -- called upon the FCC to designate 146.550 MHz as a "non-exclusive nationwide Amateur Radio Service emergency communications channel using FM wideband modulation."

Doyle and Dixon noted in their *Petition* that other services, such as the Citizens Band Radio Service, the Aviation Service and the Maritime Service have specific channels set aside for emergency communications. They claimed that use of these channels "to good effect by those in distress [and that this] is a testament to the need for individual services to have a readily accessible and publicized" emergency communications channel. In denying the *Petition*, the FCC said in part that Boyle and Dixon "had not shown an existing problem that would be addressed by a rule change designating a nationwide Amateur Service emergency calling frequency."

The FCC told Boyle and Dixon that the rules of the Amateur Radio Service allow "an amateur station to transmit one-way messages necessary to providing emergency communications," maintaining that these messages may "be transmitted on any frequency authorized [by] the control operator of the amateur stations transmitting the messages. Additionally, the rules require that, at all times and on all frequencies, each control operator must give priority to stations providing emergency communications. Administration of these rules is accomplished primarily through voluntary frequency planning by, and cooperation among, Amateur Radio operators."

Pointing out that the its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau had previously considered establishing a nationwide common calling or distress channel "in a service where transmission of such communications is permitted but not required...and the channels are shared by all users," the FCC said that it had concluded that "it was not necessary to designate a Family Service Radio (FRS) channel for establishing emergency communications because emergency communications have a priority on all FRS channels and the record did not demonstrate that FRS users were having any difficulty establishing communications."

The FCC did note, however, that unlike channels in the Citizens Band Radio Service and the Maritime Service, channels in the FRS are not routinely monitored by emergency first-responders: "Like the FRS, the Amateur Service differs from the services in which our rules designate a nationwide emergency calling channel in that it is not routinely monitored by safety entities such as the police or the Coast Guard. Additionally, those services do not require an individual to have an operator license or otherwise demonstrate the ability to operate the station by performing such functions as selecting transmitting channels to avoid interference. Therefore, we believe the administration of these services primarily through operational rules that specify the use of a channel and transmitter technical standards is reasonable."

The FCC observed that under the current rules of the Amateur Radio Service, operators can use "multiple channels on the same or different amateur band if needed for an event, or use multiple channels in the same band when multiple, but different events occur." It also mentioned that the Boyle and Dixon's proposal "that the channel be a 'non-exclusive nationwide' channel is, substantively, no different from current channel priorities because all Amateur Service channels are shared and may be used for providing emergency communications. If such a 'non-exclusive nationwide' channel is needed, nothing in our rules prevents the amateur community from voluntarily agreeing to designate a channel for this purpose. We conclude, therefore, that you have not shown an existing problem that would be addressed by a rule change designating a nationwide Amateur Service emergency calling frequency."

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please email us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance.

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.2ØØ – PL 127.3Hz
WV6F 44Ø.Ø25 – PL 127.3Hz

Ivica Dačić, YU1YU, Elected Prime Minister of Serbia

Former Serbian Internal Affairs Minister Ivica Dačić, YU1YU, was elected as that country's newest Prime Minister on July 27. He succeeds Mirko Cvetković, who served as Serbia's Prime Minister from 2008-2012. Dačić is the leader of the Socialist Party of Serbia; from 2008 until his election as Prime Minister, he served as First Deputy Prime Minister, as well as Minister of Internal Affairs. In March 2012, Serbia became a candidate for membership in the European Union (EU).
Dačić is a member of the Amateur Radio Union of Serbia (SRS), Serbia's IARU Member-Society and is said to be a member of his local club, YU1AAV. The club was founded in 1978 as one of nine sections of the Novi Beograd (New Belgrade) Amateur Radio Club, YU1FJK. According to its website, YU1AAV's primary goal has been to teach kids Morse code and Amateur Radio Direction Finding skills: "The 1990s brought us war, sanctions and social crises, but it also brought the good opportunity to move kids from the streets to learn ham radio. These were the years when the most kids from neighborhood finished the course to get their basic ham license."

Prior to his election as Prime Minister, Dačić served as the spokesman for the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) from 1992-2000; he has served as president of the SPS since December 2006. **The PM started his political career as the president of his local ham radio club.** He holds a degree in political science from the University of Belgrade. Fluent in both Russian and English, Dačić is 46, married and the father of two children.

FCC Upholds $7000 Forfeiture Order to California CB Operator

After a Merced, California man **refused** to let FCC investigators inspect his Citizens Band (CB) radio station, the FCC issued -- and upheld -- a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* (***NAL***) for $7000 for not allowing the inspection. In issuing the *NAL* in March 2011, the FCC found that Ira Jones "apparently willfully and repeatedly" violated **Section 303(n) of the *Communications Act of 1934, as amended***, and **Section 95.426(a) of the Commission's rules (CB Rule 26)** by failing to permit the inspection. Jones responded to the *NAL*, but the **FCC upheld the forfeiture amount**, saying that Jones' arguments were "irrelevant" and "unpersuasive."

Background

In March 2010, agents from the FCC's office in San Francisco responded to a complaint regarding radio frequency interference within the radio communication system equipment of the Merced County Fire Department. The agents observed that transmissions on 27.165 MHz -- a frequency within the CB radio spectrum -- appeared to match the audio distortion received on frequency 154.4 MHz within the Merced County Fire Department's audio receiver and speaker system. According to the FCC, this appeared to be audio rectification interference within the department's receiver and speaker system. Audio rectification interference occurs when an electronic circuit -- usually an amplifier -- which ideally should respond only to audio frequency signals, responds to external RF signals. Typically, the circuit picks up signals from a nearby radio transmitter in addition to the sound the listener wants to hear.

The agents monitored the radio transmissions on 27.165 MHz and used radio direction finding techniques to locate the source of the signal and found it to be emanating Jones' residence in Merced, California. A week later, the agents monitored frequency 27.165 MHz again and located the interference be coming from Jones's residence. Later the same day, the agents approached Jones' residence, knocked on his door, identified themselves as agents of the FCC and presented their official badges and credentials; the individual answering the door identified himself as Jones. The agents told him about the radio frequency interference complaint and asked him if he was the owner or operator of the CB radio station.

Jones acknowledged that he was the operator of the CB radio station, but denied causing any interference to the Merced County Fire Department. The agents then requested that they be allowed to inspect the CB radio station to determine the cause of the interference. Jones denied the agents' request. The agents warned him that refusing to allow an inspection of a CB radio station is a violation of **Section 95.426(a) of the FCC's rules** and ***Section 303(n) of the Communications Act***; they explained that these rules require CB operators to make their stations available to authorized FCC representatives for inspection. Jones again denied the request and asserted that the FCC must have a search warrant to inspect his CB station. The agents advised him that he was required to take necessary precautions to avoid causing radio interference by operating at power levels that do not exceed legal limits and by refraining from using a radio frequency power amplifier.

Prior to leaving the premises, the agents issued Jones an on-*scene Notice of Unlicensed Operation*, expressly warning that refusal to allow inspection of his radio equipment violated Section 303(n) of the *Communications Act* and included the full text of Section 303(n). Jones refused to accept a copy of the *Notice* and the agents left the document on a chair near the front door of the house. The agents then left the premises, but continued to monitor 27.165 MHz and heard Jones describe the agents' attempted inspection.

In August 2010, in response to a another complaint from the Merced County Fire Department, San Francisco agents again monitored 27.165 MHz and located the source of the interfering signal to a CB radio station operating from Jones's residence. Later the same day, the agents -- along with two Merced City police officers -- approached Jones in his front yard, identified themselves as FCC agents and presented their official badges and credentials. The two Merced City police officers identified the man as Jones. The agents told Jones about the radio frequency interference complaint and requested that they be allowed to inspect the CB radio station to determine the cause of the interference. Jones denied the request, again admitting that although he was the owner and operator of the CB radio station, he was not the owner of the house and that he had to refuse the inspection. The agents explained that refusal to allow an inspection could result in a $7000 forfeiture assessment, and Jones said that he understood.

the agents left the document on a wooden yard border and then left the premises. Two weeks later, the San Francisco Office received another complaint from the Merced County Fire Department stating that Jones had resumed CB radio station operation and interference within its radio communication system equipment had also resumed.

FCC Calls Jones' Arguments "Irrelevant" and "Unpersuasive," Says $7000 Forfeiture Is "Warranted"

Jones was given until April 9, 2011 to pay the $7000 forfeiture, or file a written statement by that date, seeking a reduction or cancellation of the amount. In his filing, Jones argued that he should not be subject to forfeiture because he had not seen a complaint from the Merced Fire department naming him as the source of the interference. "This argument is irrelevant to the investigation of Mr Jones' violation of the Commission's requirement that he make his CB station available to FCC representatives for inspection," the FCC stated. "Neither Section 303 (n) of the Communications Act nor Section 95.426(c) of the FCC's Rules requires that a complaint be filed as a prerequisite for FCC representatives to inspect a CB station. There is no question that Mr Jones' CB equipment was the source of the complained-about interference. The agents used direction finding techniques to determine that the source of the signal associated with the interference to the Merced County Fire Department came from Mr Jones' residence. Mr Jones does not dispute that the San Francisco agents located the source of the interference to his house on three separate occasions."

According to the FCC, Jones also alleged that the agents neither presented appropriate identification and nor gave him oral or written warnings: "We find Mr Jones' allegations unpersuasive. As discussed above, consistent with practice, the San Francisco agents approached Mr Jones' house, presented their government-issued identification to him and requested to conduct an inspection to determine if Mr Jones' CB radio equipment was the source of the interference on frequency 27.165 MHz. With respect to whether Mr Jones received any warnings, the response itself includes copies of the two *Notices* left by the agents. Both *Notices* clearly state 'agents of the Federal Communications Commission noted the following condition regarding the Citizen Band (CB) radio station located at [Mr Jones' address]: Your refusal to allow a inspection of your radio equipment in violation of Section 303(n) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. You are hereby warned that refusal to allow inspection of your radio station constitutes violation of the Federal laws cited above and could subject the owner of this illegal operation to the severe penalties provide, including, but not limited to, substantial civil forfeitures, a maximum criminal fine of $11,000 and/or one year imprisonment, or arrest of the equipment for the first offense.'"

Jones, in his response to the FCC, also alleged that when the San Francisco agents requested an inspection on August 27, 2010 with two Merced City police officers, one of the police officers suggested that a warrant may be necessary. "Mr Jones provides no information to support this claim and we reiterate what the San Francisco Office stated in the NAL: Commission

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues --------- $20.00 _____
Each Family Member -- $ 2.00 _____
Student ---------- $ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation --- _____
Call/Name badge -------- $11.00 _____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues ---------- $37.00 _____
Total---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
DATE:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143